

10/729,430

- 6 -

REMARKS

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schlecht (5,999,417). That rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite issuance of the patent, independent claims 1, 14 and 27 have been cancelled. Also, certain of the dependent claims originally dependent on claims 1 and 14 have now been made dependent on claims 13 and 26, respectively. Applicant reserves the right to file the original claims 1, 14 and 27 in a continuation application.

The remaining independent claims are directed to a feature of the embodiment of Fig. 4 described at page 6 of the application. Specifically, the duty cycle of the primary winding circuit is reduced as a function of sensed current. Further, that duty cycle is compared to a threshold, and operation is shutdown when the duty cycle drops below the threshold.

In the Schlecht '417 patent, there was no suggestion of shutting down operation when duty cycle drops below a threshold.

Because the Schlecht reference does not teach every element of each of claims 13, 26 and 28, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 be withdrawn.


- 7 -

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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